

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 3, 2003, claims 47-75 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 76-89 have been newly added. Therefore, claims 76-89 are pending. Support for the new claims is provided throughout the as-filed Specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

A. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (I.D.S.)

1. An I.D.S. was filed by Applicants on April 6, 2001, a copy of which is provided in attached **APPENDIX A**. To date, however, Applicants have not received a copy of the PTO-1449 form signed by the Examiner indicating that this I.D.S. was considered. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a signed copy of the PTO-1449 form for this submission.

2. An electronic I.D.S. is being filed by Applicants on even date. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the cited references and return a signed copy of the Form PTO-1449 for this submission.

3. An I.D.S. is being filed herewith citing references made of record in prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/425,185, filed April 19, 1995. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the references cited on the Form PTO-1449 have not been provided, as this information was previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the prior application referenced above. The application referenced above is relied on for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the cited references and return a signed copy of the Form PTO-1449 for this submission.

B. **CLAIMS 47-75**

By this Amendment, claims 47-75 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot each of the claim rejections alleged by the Examiner in the Office Action. These claims were cancelled solely to expedite prosecution and, as such, should in no way be viewed as the acquiescence by Applicants to any of the rejections alleged in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants expressly reserve the right to (and intend to) re-file claims 47-75 in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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